

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 8, line 21 and ending on page 9, line 2 with the following rewritten version:

b1 -- The first and second sealing surfaces 34 and 36 are preferably convexly curved surfaces with identical curvatures that extend through an arc α of about 60° as seen in Figure 4. In other words, the first and second sealing surfaces 34 and 36 are basically annular sealing lines S_1 and S_2 with no radial width prior to compression of the seal 10. As seen in Figure 4, the annular sealing lines S_1 and S_2 are located closer to midpoints M_1 and M_2 of the first and second sealing surfaces 34 and 36, respectively, than to either of the end points of the first and second sealing surfaces 34 and 36. By tightening the fasteners 22, the metallic seal 10 is loaded, and thus, compressed to plastically deform the seal primarily through torsion and create the pair of annular seal dams D_1 and D_2 between the metallic seal 10 and the first and second members 14 and 18. Deformation of the metallic seal 10 is about 10% to 25% of the axial height of the seal 10 between its sealing surfaces 34 and 36. Once the seal 10 is compressed, the first and second sealing surfaces 34 and 36 are deformed to form flat sealing surfaces that correspond to the first and second annular sealing dams D_1 and D_2 . The minimum effective widths of first and second annular sealing dams D_1 and D_2 of the first and second sealing surfaces 34 and 36 lies within the range of about 0.005 inch to about 0.040 inch. --